

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 11040 221350Z
ACTION ARA-14

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NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
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POLITICS IN CNA'S SIXTH ASSEMBLY

REF: LIMA 10186

SUMMARY: THE CNA'S SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ENDED DEC 18 WITH
PRESIDENT AVELINO MAR STILL IN CONTROL OF THE ORGANIZATION
DESPITE GOP CRITICISM, SOME INTERNAL DISSENT AND REVIVED
COMPETITION FROM APRA RELATED CAMPESINO FEDERATION. END
SUMMARY.

1. AVELINO MAR ARIAS, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERACION NACIONAL
AGRARIA (CNA) ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS DEC 19 THAT THE CAN AT
ITS DEC 16-19 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECIDED TO TAKE PART IN PERU'S
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BY ENTERING INTO AN ALLIANCE
"WITH POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE LEFT." HE ADDED THAT HE HAD
NO AMBITION TO BE A CANDIDATE IN THE CONSTITUENT ELECTIONS BUT
THAT THE CNA MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO DETERMINE HIS ROLE.
DENYING CHARGES THAT THE CAN WAS LINKED TO THE CUBAN-OREINTED
PARTIDO SOCIALISTA REVOLUCIONARIO (PSR), MAR TOLD THE PRESS
THAT A POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE NAMED SOON BY CNA
LEADERS TO NEGOTIATE WITH PARTIES OF THE LEFT TO FORM AN ALLIANCE.
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2. OTHER POLITICAL THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THE CNA
ASSEMBLY INCLUDED MAR'S PROPOSAL TO UNIFY ALL FARMERS (I.E.,
SMALL AND MEDIUM LANDHOLDERS) IN AN EFFORT TO FEND OFF APRA
INROADS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE
OWNERSHIP AND DIRECTION OF THE LIMA MORNING DAILY "EL COMERCIAO"
BE TURNED OVER TO THE CAMPESINOS. IN ADDITION, THE CNA ASSEMBLY

CONFIRMED THE EXPULSION OF THREE FEDERATION LEADERS FROM THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS DEPARTMENTS OF JUNIN, PASCO AND HUANUCO WHO HAD CRITICIZED MAR AND THE CNA LEADERSHIP FOR ITS DEALINGS WITH PSR, FOR MIS-MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS, AND FOR LACK OF RESPONSIVENESS TO CAMPESINO NEEDS. FINALLY, THE CNA CONDEMNED A RECENT GOP AUDIT CRITICAL OF CNA MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS AS ILL-INTENTIONED.

3. COMMENT: THE GOP HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF THE CNA LEADERSHIP WHOM IT CONSIDERS TO BE LINKED TO THE POLITICS OF EXILED GEN. LEONIDAS FIGUEROA'S PSR. (OTHER OBSERVERS CONSIDER MAR A MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST WHOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE PSR DERIVES FROM PARTY INSTRUCTIONS.) MAR'S CLAIM REGARDING APRA ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE ORIGINATES FROM THE RENEWED EFFORTS OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CAMPESINOS (FENCAP), AN APRA-FOUNDED CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION. DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS, FENCAP HAD BECOME INACTIVE NATIONALLY AS THE CNA, WITH GOP BACKING, DOMINATED RURAL AREA. HOWEVER, FENCAP SURVIVED IN THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENTS AND RECENTLY HAS BEEN CONTACTING SMALL AND MEDIUM LANDHOLDERS, URGING THEM TO RESIST "COLLECTIVIZATION" AND TO INSIST ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LAND TITLES TO INDIVIDUAL CAMPESINOS.

4. THE CNA "EXPULSION" OF THREE FEDERATION LEADERS MAY SIGNAL SOME SERIOUS INTERNAL DISSENT WHICH THE GOP APPARENTLY HOPES TO FUEL BY AIRING ITS SUSPICIONS OF CNA'S POLITICKICKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND BY PUBLICIZING CHARGES OF MISADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS. HOWEVER, MAR SECURED THE ENDORSEMENT OF SEVERAL AGRARIAN FEDERATIONS DURING THE ASSEMBLY AND SEEMS TO HAVE SURVIVED THIS ROUND AGAINST THE EFFORTS TO UNSEAT HIM. SHLAUDEMAN

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Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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